AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-33 (Cancelled)

34.   (New) Method of handling messages in a mobile communications system, comprising the steps of:

transferring a message and associated first hardware identification data of an intended terminating receiver of the message from an application node to a message controller;

interacting between the message controller and a location updated subscriber database;

further managing of the message based on the first hardware identification data and data stored in the location updated subscriber database.

35.   (New) Method according to claim 34, comprising the further step of:

comparing the first hardware identification data and hardware identification data stored in the location updated subscriber database, whereby the step of further managing being based on the outcome of the step of comparing.

36.   (New) Method according to claim 34, wherein the step of interacting in turn comprises the steps of:

sending the first hardware identification data from the message controller to the location updated subscriber database;

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whereby the first hardware identification data is used in the location updated

subscriber database to retrieve an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently

handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data; and

returning the address of the switching or support node, if any, from the location

updated subscriber database to the message controller;

whereby the step of further managing comprises initiating of a transmission of the

message to the address of the switching or support node.

37.   (New) Method according to claim 36, wherein the step of further managing further

comprises, if no address of a switching or support node presently handling hardware

defined by the hardware identification data is retrieved in the location updated subscriber

database, storing of the message and resuming the interacting step with the location

updated subscriber database after a delay time.

38.   (New) Method according to claim 34, comprising the further step of transferring

mobile subscriber identification data associated with the message from the application

node to the message controller.

39.   (New) Method according to claim 38, wherein the mobile subscriber identification

data is a mobile subscriber ISDN number.

40.   (New) Method according to claim 38, wherein the step of interacting in turn

comprises the steps of:

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sending the mobile subscriber identification data from the message controller to the location updated subscriber database;

retrieving an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling a mobile subscriber defined by the mobile subscriber identification data and second hardware identification data associated therewith; and

returning the address of the switching or support node and the second hardware identification data from the location updated subscriber database to the message controller.

41.   (New) Method according to claim 40, wherein a comparing step being performed in the message controller, comparing the first and second hardware identification data; and

whereby the step of further managing comprises, if the first and second hardware identification data are equivalent, an initiating of a transmission of the message to the address of the switching or support node.

42.   (New) Method according to claim 41, wherein the step of further managing further comprises, if the first and second hardware identification data are non-equivalent, storing of the message and resuming the interacting step with the location updated subscriber database after a delay time.

43.   (New) Method according to claim 41, wherein the step of further managing further comprises, if the first and second hardware identification data are non-equivalent, sending of an error message to the application node .

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44.   (New) Method according to claim 34, wherein the first and second hardware identification data comprises at least one of subscriber identification module identification data and mobile equipment identification data.

45.   (New) Method according to claim 44, comprising the further step of returning at least one of subscriber identification module identification data and mobile equipment identification data from the location updated subscriber database to the message controller.

46.   (New) Method according to claim 34, wherein the message is a short message service - SMS - message and the message controller is a SMS controller.

47.   (New) Method according to claim 34, wherein the location updated subscriber database is home location register.

48.   (New) Method according to claim 36, wherein the switching or support node is a mobile switching centre.

49.   (New) Message controller, comprising:

first receiver for a message and associated first hardware identification data of an intended terminating receiver of the message; and

means for interacting with a location updated subscriber database; and

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means for further managing of the message based on the first hardware

identification data and data stored in the location updated subscriber database.

50.   (New) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the means for further

managing is arranged to be based on the outcome of a comparison between the first

hardware identification data and hardware identification data stored in the location updated

subscriber database.

51.   (New) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the means for

interacting in turn comprises:

        sending means for sending the first hardware identification data to the location

updated subscriber database;

        second receiver for an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently

handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data from the location updated

subscriber database;

        the means for further managing comprising means for initiating a transmission of

the message to the address of the switching or support node.

52.   (New) Message controller according to claim 51, wherein the means for further

managing further comprises, if no address of a switching or support node presently

handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data is provided by the location

updated subscriber database, storing of the message and resuming the interacting step

with the location updated subscriber database after a delay time.

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53.   (New) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the first receiver is arranged for further receiving mobile subscriber identification data.

54.   (New) Message controller according to claim 53, wherein the mobile subscriber identification data is a mobile subscriber ISDN number.

55.   (New) Message controller according to claim 53, wherein the means for interacting in turn comprises:

sending means for sending the mobile subscriber identification data to the location updated subscriber database; and

second receiver for an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling a mobile subscriber defined by the mobile subscriber identification data and second hardware identification data associated therewith from the location updated subscriber database.

56.   (New) Message controller according to claim 55, comprising:

.means for comparing the first and second hardware identification data;

the means for further managing comprising means for initiating a transmission of the message to the address of the switching or support node;

whereby the means for initiating is arranged to operate if the output of the means for comparing indicates that the first and second hardware identification data are equivalent.

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57.   (New) Message controller according to claim 56, wherein the means for further

managing further comprises means for storing of the message and means for resuming

interaction with the location updated subscriber database after a delay time;

whereby the means for storing and means for resuming are arranged to operate if

the output of the means for comparing indicates that the first and second hardware

identification data are non-equivalent.

58.   (New) Message controller according to claim 56, wherein the means for further

managing further comprises means for sending of an error message to an originating node

of the message;

whereby the means for sending an error message is arranged to operate if the

output of the means for comparing indicates that the first and second hardware

identification data are non-equivalent.

59.   (New) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the first and second

hardware identification data comprises at least one of subscriber identification module

identification data and mobile equipment identification data.

60.   (New) Message controller according to claim 59, wherein the second receiver is

arranged to receive at least one of subscriber identification module identification data and

mobile equipment identification data from the location updated subscriber database.

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61. (New) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the message is a short message service - SMS - message and the message controller is a SMS controller.

62. (New) Communications system node having location updated subscriber database, comprising:

storage for address and hardware identification data associated with mobile subscribers;

means for updating content of the storage;

receiver for hardware identification data associated with an intended terminating receiver of a message from a message controller;

means for retrieving an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data from the storage; and

sender for sending the address of the switching or support node presently handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data to the message controller.

63. (New) Communications system node according to claim 62, wherein the sender further comprises means for sending hardware identification data to the message controller.

64. (New) Communications system node according to claim 62, wherein the location updated subscriber database is a home location register.

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65.   (New) Mobile communications system, comprising at least one message

controller, said message controller in turn comprising:

first receiver for a message and associated first hardware identification data of an

intended terminating receiver of the message; and

means for interacting with a location updated subscriber database; and

means for further managing of the message based on the first hardware

identification data and data stored in the location updated subscriber database.

66.   (New) Mobile communications system according to claim 65, further comprising

at least one communications system node in turn comprising:

storage for address and hardware identification data associated with mobile

subscribers;

means for updating content of the storage;

receiver for hardware identification data associated with an intended terminating

receiver of a message from a message controller;

means for retrieving an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently

handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data from the storage; and

sender for sending the address of the switching or support node presently

handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data to the message controller.

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